

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A magnetic stirring apparatus comprising:  
an agitator,  
at least one permanent magnet;  
a float body; and  
a bar having an upper end, a lower end, an upper end section, and a lower end  
section,  
the bar tapering into a tip at the lower end,  
the agitator being arranged at the lower end section of the bar,  
the float body being arranged at the upper end section, and  
the at least one permanent magnet being connected to the agitator.

Claims 2 and 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with  
claim 1 wherein:

the agitator is formed symmetrically; and,  
at least two permanent magnets are symmetrically arranged in the agitator.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with  
claim 1 wherein:

the float body has an increasing inner cross-section at least along one part section  
in the direction of the upper end section.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with  
claim 1 wherein:

at least one vane is arranged at the bar.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance

with claim 1 wherein:

a permanent magnet is arranged in the float body.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

the float body is formed in an annular shape.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

the agitator is made in a shape selected from the group consisting of a bar shape, a star shape and a circular shape.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~An agitating device comprising a~~ A magnetic stirring apparatus having a permanent magnet and a float body with a magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with claim 1, and comprising further including:

a magnetic drive apparatus, said magnetic drive apparatus and said at least one permanent magnet of the magnetic stirring apparatus forming a magnetic coupling for rotating the magnetic stirring apparatus.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~An agitating device~~ A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with claim ~~210~~, wherein:

the drive apparatus has at least one permanent magnets magnet which form a magnetic coupling together with the at least one permanent magnets magnet of the magnetic stirring apparatus.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~An agitating device~~ A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with claim ~~210~~, wherein:

the drive apparatus has a plurality of electromagnetic coils which form an electric motor together with the at least one permanent magnets magnet of the magnetic stirring apparatus.

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~An agitating device~~ A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with claim ~~411~~, wherein:

the at least one permanent magnets magnet of the magnetic stirring apparatus and

the at least one permanent magnets magnet of the drive apparatus are arranged and formed such that they mutually form a passive radial and/or axial magnetic bearing.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~An agitating device~~ A magnetic stirring apparatus  
in accordance with claim ~~10~~10, wherein:

the magnetic stirring apparatus has a toe bearing.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (new)      A magnetic stirring apparatus in accordance with claim 10,  
wherein:

the magnetic stirring apparatus is a bio-reactor.